

"THE NEW ERA MOVEMENT."

The Presbyterian Church U. S. A. (Northern) is awaking in a remarkable way to the great responsibilities resting upon it, the great opportunities before it, and the great privilege of meeting these conditions. It realizes that the Church throughout the world has come very far short of measuring up to the standard to which it ought to reach in doing the Master's work. It is determined to make up as far as possible for its share of the shortcomings of the Church.

The last Assembly launched what is known as "The New Era Movement." It was intrusted to men of outstanding ability. This of itself almost guarantees its success.

It would be well if all the branches of the Church, including our own, should awake to the fact that, during the remainder of the war and during the years that follow, the world will be passing through an era that will require changed methods of work, involving great enlargement, as the business world is recognizing it must do.

This movement in our sister church is described by the Philadelphia Presbyterian, as follows, and we commend it to the careful study of our readers:

"The New Era Movement can be best described today as the 'allied strategy' of the Presbyterian Church. Instead of attacking the common foe of indifference and need in a piecemeal way, one agency working at one end of the line and one at another, all of the agencies have combined under one co-operative leadership and are to go forward side by side and step by step to victory.

The Council of War.

"The committee appointed by the General Assembly consists of twenty-seven men, nine of whom represent the boards and permanent agencies of the General Assembly, nine from the Executive Commission, and nine from the Church at large. The names of the members of the committee will be easily recognized as comprising a widespread and eminent array of Presbyterian leadership: Rev. William L. McEwan, D. D., Pittsburgh, Pa.; Rev. William R. Taylor, D. D., Rochester, N. Y.; Mr. Alexander R. Nicol, New York, N. Y.; Rev. Aquilla Webb, D. D., Philadelphia, Pa.; Rev. Charles Wood, D. D., Washington, D. C.; Mr. John T. Manson, New Haven, Conn.; Col. D. S. Alexander, Buffalo, N. Y.; Rev. Alexander Henry, D. D., Philadelphia, Pa.; Rev. Hugh T. Kerr, D. D., Pittsburgh, Pa.; Rev. J. M. Gaston, D. D., Pittsburgh, Pa.; Prof. Charles Scanlon, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Rev. George G. Mahy, D. D., Philadelphia, Pa.; Rev. John W. MacIvor, St. Louis, Mo.; Rev. S. V. V. Holmes, D. D., Buffalo, N. Y.; Mr. A. H. Whitford, New York, N. Y.; Rev. Joseph W. Cochran, D. D., Detroit, Mich.; Dr. John Willis Baer, Pasadena, Cal.; Mr. Robert Garrett, Baltimore, Md.; Mr. Robert Johnston, St. Louis, Mo.; Mr. Cyrus R. McCormick, Chicago, Ill.; Rev. John A. Marquis, D. D., New York, N. Y.; Rev. A. W. Halsey, D. D., New York, N. Y.; Rev. David G. Wylie, D. D., New York, N. Y.; Rev. J. Wilbur Chapman, D. D., New York, N. Y.; Rev. W. O. Thompson, D. D., Columbus, Ohio; Hon. Nelson H. Loomis, Omaha, Neb.

Why We Fight.

"The New Era Movement is under the obligation to restate to the Church the purposes for which the Church exists. It is to present old tasks in a new light, and that light the light of war. Its business is to survey the whole field of human need and to marshal the resources of the Presbyterian Church in terms of men and money to meet its share of that

need. The agencies of the General Assembly do not exist for themselves, but in order to accomplish great tasks. The Church has what the world needs. It must organize itself in the light of the new era to give the world what it has.

The Spiritual Center.

"The New Era Movement has a spiritual center. It is the renewed recognition of Jesus Christ and his kingdom as the source of the world's only and all-sufficient hope. There can be no other center than this.

A Sacrificial Motive.

"The motive of the New Era Movement must be supremely sacrificial. Millions of men are sacrificing everything possible for the sake of cherished ideals. The Church cannot hope to enlist the same measure of service unless it appeals to similar motives. A spectacle of a Church saving itself, maintaining its traditions, and all its methods unbroken, and heedless of the needs of a lost world, is not an inspiring one. The only way for the Church to build up its life is to give up its life. The New Era Movement will succeed as it is able to carry out into the heart of the Church the same spirit which the sons of the Church and of the world are carrying into the war.

Creative Rather Than Administrative.

"It is not the purpose of the New Era Movement to take over any of the administrative work of any of the General Assembly agencies. Its business is to inspire rather than to administer. It gathers together under one leadership all the promotive work of the various agencies and directs it toward the accomplishment of a definite objective. It is not to be wondered, therefore, that all of the boards have heartily entered into the movement and are a vital part of it. It means that they will be left free to do the work and to expend the money entrusted to them by the Church, while the New Era Movement, of which they are a part, and in their behalf, will lead the Church to furnish adequate resources both in men and money for their task.

A Definite Objective.

"By the direction of the General Assembly, the New Era Movement has formulated its plans in terms of a five-year practical program big enough for the whole Church, and small enough for every individual church. The plan embraces certain underlying elements. Since the Church is the great spiritual agency, in whose service Christian men are asked to invest their lives for the sake of the whole world, it is inevitable that the underlying elements of the plan should be stressed. The mission of the Church has been invested with new urgency by conditions arising out of the present war. A program that might have been adequate for a world at peace will not be sufficient for the new era. The whole practical program of the Church must be conceived anew. It should include such items as The Rehabilitation of the Christian Home; The Re-establishment of the Family Altar; The Return to the Lord's Day; The Adequate Christian Care of Children and Young People, with special attention to the field of secondary education, where the Church through its academies used to be influential, and where today, because of its practical lack of interest in high school education, its influence is sadly lacking; the recognition of the Church's obligation to the unchurched people of the community, including the adaptation of its service and program to the needs of the community, and not its own convenience or its traditions, the bringing of multitudes to Christ through personal and pastoral evangelism; the

recruiting of a new army of young men and young women for heroic Christian service in the ministry, and in the missionary field at home and abroad; the training of an increasing number of Christian leaders for all callings and pursuits; the adequate care of the nation's soldiers as they come home wounded and unfitted for normal service, coupled with a fulfillment of a new mission to the families in every community out of whose midst men have gone to the front; the faithful and fearless facing of the obligation resting upon the Church to meet the needs of individual communities from the interdenominational viewpoint, guarding against unnecessary overlapping and looking toward the possibility of evangelical federation, as one of the solutions of the problem; the conscientious and courageous acceptance of the opportunity which God is presenting to the Church in the wide open mission fields of Asia and Africa and Latin America, and the widespread proclamation of the principles of stewardship, relating it to the New Era Movement as an integral part.

"The New Era Movement has already perfected its plans to present such principles as the above in such a form as they may be successfully carried out by the Church. Public meetings, the printed page, stewardship conferences, posters, leaflets, banners and buttons, all of which constitute an important part of every great campaign, are already in the process of preparation. It promises to be only a short while until the entire Presbyterian Church from coast to coast will be fully informed of the spirit and the methods of the New Era Movement.

"The financial elements of the plan are being carefully and thoroughly considered by the entire New Era Committee, and it is expected that before the next General Assembly there will have been launched and successfully carried out a campaign for the beginning of a vast sum of money, all of which will be urgently required for the actual work of the Presbyterian Church during the first year of the five. It is plain that the present hour is no time for the accumulation of vast intimate resources. It is only for the immediate work of the Church which must be done if the Church is not to fail, and a Church that fails spells a doomed nation, that the new era ingathering will take place in the month of March, 1919."

A MENACE AND AN OPPORTUNITY.

Students of social questions have noted the remarkable change in the immigration within the last forty years. Before that time the immigrant came in the main from the northern part of Europe, Germany, Sweden, Scotland, Ireland and England. Now that stream has almost entirely dried up, and countless millions have come from Southern and Middle Europe; Russians, Ruthenians, Slovaks, Italians and Croats have poured into our land, with large numbers of Greeks and Syrians from Asiatic Turkey.

These are fleeing from the political and economic oppressions of their respective countries. They gather in great masses and are in the main unskilled laborers. They build our great public works of various kinds and furnish brawn from which our great improvements come. They live in the most unsanitary part of our cities and crowd and pack together in a way that Americans cannot, and will not, do. They constitute a menace in that they become the prey of every evil influence; used to drinking in their own country, at least the wines that abound in Europe, they become the mainstay of the liquor traffic, the bond-slaves of the wholesale and retail whiskey houses.